

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 IO-14 /133 W

----- 056970

R 111108Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9410

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS PRETORIA 0978

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, RH, SF

SUBJECT: SA POLICEMEN KILLED IN RHODESIA

1. FOR PAST TWO DAYS, NEWS MEDIA REPORTING IN SOUTH AFRICA HAS BEEN DOMINATED BY STORY OF AMBUSH OF PATROL OF SA POLICEMEN IN RHODESIA MARCH 8. FOUR POLICEMEN SHOT TO DEATH AND ONE MISSING. SHOOTING REPORTEDLY TOOK PLACE NEAR ZAMBEZI RIVER ABOUT TWELVE KILOMETERS UPSTREAM FROM VICTORIA FALLS.

2. IN OFFICIAL STATEMENT ISSUED IN PRETORIA MARCH 9 SAG MINISTER OF POLICE, S. L. MULLER WHO ALONG WITH SA POLICE COMMISSIONER, GENERAL THEO CROUS, WAS IN RHODESIA WHEN SHOOTING OCCURRED, GAVE NAMES OF DEAD AND MISSING POLICEMEN AND EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR THEIR NEXT-OF-KIN. AT PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 10 NEAR SITE OF AMBUSH, MULLER SAID THOSE WHO ATTACKED PATROL WERE "COWARDS"

WHO KILLED IN COLD BLOOD.

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EM SUNDAY TIMES REPORTED THAT IN BROADCAST MARCH 9 RADIO ZAMBIA
HAILED KILLING OF SA POLICEMEN AS "GREAT VICTORY FOR FREEDOM
FIGHTERS." TIMES SAID BROADCAST ASSERTED THAT EIGHTEEN POLICEMEN
WERE WOUNDED IN THE ATTACK. THIS HAS BEEN DENIED BY RHODESIAN
AND SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING MINSTER MULLER.

4. IT IS REPORTED THAT TWELVE SA POLICEMEN HAVE BEEN KILLED AND
20 WOUNDED ON RHODESIAN BORDER SINCE 1968. NINE OF THE TWELVE HAVE
DIED IN PAST 15 MONTHS.

5. EDITORIALS BY AFRIKAANS AND ENGLISH - LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS AND
COMMENTS BY OPPOSITION UNITED PARTY LEADERS HAVE FOCUSED ON
GROWING DANGER THAT "TERRORISM" IN NORTH POSES FOR SOUTH AFRICA.
NEED TO IMPROVE RACE RELATIONS WITHIN SA ALSO EMPHASIZED.
OGGENDBLAD, PRETORIA AFRIKAANS NEWSPAPER, STATED, IN ADDITION, THAT
ATTACK ON SA POLICEMEN IS FURTHER PROOF THAT GUERRILLAS ARE
OPERATING FROM BASES IN ZAMBIA.
HURD

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PINS, RH, SF, (MULLER, S L)
To: STATE
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